

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending. Claims 11-20 are canceled in this amendment, leaving claims 1-10 and 21-46 pending.

Independent claims 1 and 21, along with dependent claims 2-10, and 22-46, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Walker (U.S. Patent No. 6,616,458) in view of Pinsley (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,145). Applicants traverse this rejection

Claim 1 relates to a screening and survey selection system having a survey queue that includes a plurality of queue slots that each include a survey available for a respondent and "a random number generator adapted to generate a number pertaining to a selected one of said plurality of queue slots as a function of at least one characteristic associated with said respondent." Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 because neither Walker, Pinsley, nor any combination of the two describes or suggests the recited random number generator used to randomly generate a number corresponding to a queue slot in a survey queue.

Walker describes a system for administering surveys that claims to reduce or eliminate the problems with submission of random or meaningless responses by respondents of surveys conducted over computer networks. Walker, as noted by the Examiner, does not describe or suggest using a random number generator for any purpose, much less for selecting a queue slot that includes a survey available for a respondent.

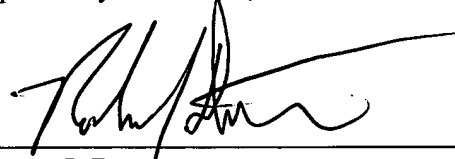
Pinsley describes a system and method to administer a network-based survey by randomly selecting survey participants from the users that visit a Web site. Pinsley describes an example in which every Nth Web site visitor is selected to participate in a survey. In this example, a random number between 1 and N is generated when a user visits the Web site. If the number generated is equal to N, the user is selected to participate in the survey. See col. 2, lines 28-35. While Pinsley does describe a random number generator used *to randomly select survey participants*, Pinsley neither describes nor suggests a random number generator used *to randomly select a survey queue slot* from among a plurality of survey queue slots including surveys available for a respondent.

For at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and its dependent claims, claims 2-10, and 31-35.

Claims 21 relates to a computer system for effecting a screening and survey selection system having a database that includes a survey queue having a plurality of queue slots that each include a survey available for a respondent and a server associated with the database that includes "a random number generator that generates a number pertaining to a selected one of said plurality of queue slots as a function of at least one characteristic associated with said respondent." For at least the same reasons discussed above, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21, and its dependent claims, claims 22-30 and 42-46, because neither Walker, Pinsley, nor any combination of the two describes or suggests the recited random number generator used to randomly generate a number corresponding to a queue slot in a survey queue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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